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REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 29 Jan. 1954

SUBJECT Living Conditions

NO. OF PAGES 6

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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25X1Expenses

5. monthly expenses for food, clothing, housing, and all other goods and services were on the average, as follows:

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Cost (in zloty)</u> |
|--|------------------------|
| Taxes | 400.00 |
| PZPR membership fee | 52.00 |
| Trade Union membership fee | 30.00 |
| Other collections | 5.00 |
| Food (meals in restaurants) | 900.00 |
| Milk (delivered to my home) | 90.00 |
| Rent for one room with use of kitchen and bathroom. (For heating during the winter an additional sum was paid each month which for the whole winter amounted to about 400 zloty.) | 80.00 |
| Light and gas | 30.00 |
| Furniture (replacement and new) | 300.00 |
| Charwoman | 100.00 |
| Clothing (new and repairs on old) | 500.00 |
| Cigarettes | 150.00 |
| Toilet articles | 60.00 |
| Laundry | 150.00 |
| Additional personal expenses while traveling on official business | 200.00 |

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| <u>Item</u> | <u>Cost (in zloty)</u> | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------|
| Transportation - streetcar | 27.00 | |
| - taxis | 50.00 | |
| Books - fiction | 20.00 | |
| - professional | 50.00 | |
| Newspapers and periodicals | 15.00 | |
| Radio tax | 7.50 | |
| Entertainment and recreation | <u>300.00</u> | 25X1 |
| Approximate total | 3,516.50 | |

Prices and Availability of Consumer Goods

6. Prices of the following consumer goods are approximate as of July 1953:
 /In some instances only the availability of the item is indicated. 25X1

| <u>Foodstuffs</u> | <u>Price (in zloty)</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Black bread, kg. | 3.00 |
| White bread, kg. | 3.50 |
| Milk, lit. | 3.00 |
| Eggs, each | 1.50 |
| Butter, kg. (Mixed with margarine) (Not always obtainable) | 50.00 |
| Sugar, kg. | 15.00 |
| Sausages, kg. | 50.00 |
| Meat (Not sufficient, especially in good quality) (Not always obtainable) | |
| Fish (Difficult to buy) | |
| Rice (Difficult to buy) | |
| Apples, kg. - in season | 30.00 |
| - in winter | 50.00 |
| Oranges, each (Available only in season) | 50.00 |
| Lemons, each | 8.00 to 13.00 |

Luxury Foods

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Black caviar, kg. (Not obtainable) | |
| Smoked salmon (Not always obtainable) | |
| Vodka, 40 degrees, lit. | 90.00 |

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| <u>Luxury Foods</u> | <u>Price (in zloty)</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Wine, bottle - home produced fruit wine | 15.00 to 30.00 |
| - imported wine | 30.00 to 80.00 |
| Cognac (Not always obtainable) | |
| Champagne (Only that produced in Poland) | |
| Milk chocolate, kg. (Not always obtainable) | 150.00 |
| Coffee, ground, kg. (Not always obtainable) | 400.00 |
| Tea, kg. (Not always obtainable) | 400.00 |
| <u>Clothing</u> | |
| Wool, medium grade, m. (Difficult to buy) | 900.00 to 1,200.00 |
| Man's wool suit (In good quality) | 3,000.00 to 5,000.00 |
| Cotton dress | 400.00 |
| Man's leather jacket (Not obtainable) | |
| Leather shoes (Good quality) | 400.00 to 1,200.00 |
| Felt boots for winter (Only on tickets) | |
| Handbag | 100.00 to 300.00 |
| Man's felt hat | 80.00 to 150.00 |
| Shirt, cotton | 50.00 |
| poplin | 220.00 |
| Nylon stockings (Produced in Poland) | 80.00 to 100.00 |
| (Imported) | 180.00 to 200.00 |
| <u>Manufactured Products</u> | |
| Man's bicycle (ordinary) (Only on tickets) | 1,800.00 |
| Baby carriage (Difficult to buy) | |
| Kitchen utensils (pots, kettles, saucepans, etc., were obtainable only in exchange for old or new wool.) | |
| Cup and saucer, cheap porcelain | 3.00 |
| Electric refrigerator, small | 3,000.00 |
| Radio set, better quality (Only on tickets) | 1,800.00 to 3,000.00 |
| Sewing machine, portable | 2,400.00 |
| Typewriter, portable | 2,500.00 |
| Razor blades - Polish production, packet of five | 3.00 |
| - imported, each | 5.00 to 8.00 |

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AutomobilesPrice (in zloty)

Small car - DKW (German), new available only for
doctors and leading workers 16,000.00

Medium-size car - Warszawa, for government agencies
only 26,000.00

Large luxury car (Not obtainable)

Miscellaneous Products and Services

Soap and soap powder (Not always obtainable)

Electric copper wire (Not obtainable)

Lumber, boards (Only on special permit)

Building and construction materials for repairs
(Only on special permit)

Iron, colored metals (Only on special permit)

Photographic materials and chemicals (Not always
obtainable)

Medicaments (Of foreign production) (Difficult to
buy)

Cut flowers - one rose 30.00

Book case, medium quality 800.00

Divan 2,200.00

Chair 30.00 to 120.00

Chair, upholstered 250.00

Theater ticket 10.00 to 30.00

Movie ticket 3.00 to 4.50

Average fiction book 10.00

Professional or scientific book 50.00

Newspaper, copy 0.25

Single room in hotel 30.00 to 50.00

Pension for 24 hours in any resort area booked
by Orbis Travel Agency, single room 30.00 to 50.00

Haircut 4.00 to 5.00

Private physician's fee (Service difficult to obtain
because there was no official
private practice.) 100.00

Prices of meals in State-owned restaurants and milk bars:

Milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ lit., skimmed 0.75

Roll, with butter and cheese 2.00

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Miscellaneous Products and ServicesPrice (in zloty)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Rice with milk | 3.00 |
| Soup | 1.50 to 3.00 |
| Meat dish | 8.00 to 25.00 |
| Coffee, black, one cup | 4.20 |
| Cake, one | 2.40 |
| Ice cream, one serving | 5.00 to 8.00 |

The prices of meals in first-class restaurants were higher. A restaurant with dancing facilities would usually charge in the evening an entrance fee of approximately 30 zloty, plus the cost of food and drink consumed. For instance, at the Bristol Hotel restaurant a bill for one or two glasses of wine and coffee with cake for two persons would be about 100 zloty.

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